

Talking Points

March Update to 2011 Water Supply Allocation for the Central Valley Project

- Today, I am announcing an update to the Initial 2011 Water Supply Allocation for Central Valley Project water users.
- Thanks to continuing wet weather, California's snow-water content is 125 percent of the normal statewide for this date. Precipitation in Northern California is 139 percent of the seasonal average compared to 98 percent this time last year.
- Last month, the Department of the Interior announced that most of the CVP contractors and water users would receive a 100 percent allocation; however, South-of-Delta water service contractors still face challenging water supply conditions, particularly given the past few dry years and restrictions on pumping.
- This month, the Bureau of Reclamation is increasing the allocation for our South-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors from 50 percent to 55 percent of their contracted amount. Additionally, we are increasing the allocation for municipal and industrial water service contractors South-of Delta from 75 percent to 80 percent of their historic deliveries. This additional 5 percent allocation to agricultural service contractors and M&I water service contractors is made available by the capture of flood waters on the San Joaquin River for use by Westside contractors.
- Unfortunately, we are unable to increase the allocation for South-of Delta agricultural and municipal and industrial contractors beyond 5 percentage points at this time due to pumping limitations required by our water use permits and the 2008 and 2009 Biological Opinions for delta smelt, Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead. Reclamation will continue to evaluate San Joaquin River run-off to determine the availability of additional flood flows available for allocation.
- Pumping at the federal Jones Pumping Plant in the south Delta is restricted in April and May by both our water use permit issued by the State of California and the 2008 and 2009 Biological Opinions to protect migrating Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead from entrainment in the pumps. In June, pumping restrictions are in place to protect larval and juvenile Delta smelt.
- The Department continues to seek measures to improve the water supplies for agricultural users in the San Joaquin Valley.
- One important way Reclamation is assisting both South-of Delta water contractors and Friant water users is by allowing the rescheduling of 2010 CVP water for use in the 2011 water year. This provides certainty of water supply early in the water year as the CVP water supply becomes more defined.
- Another action taken by Reclamation to assist San Joaquin Valley water users this year is by declaring the availability of Section 215 water for those Friant Division repayment and long-term water service contractors that enter into a "Temporary Water Service Contract for Surplus Water" with Reclamation. The availability of this Friant Division Section 215 water

is a separate action unrelated to the initial February CVP water allocation announcement.

- Section 215 is a section in the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-293) which defines temporary water supplies that are unusually large and not storable for project purposes and, among other measures, allows non-storable water to be applied to lands otherwise ineligible to receive federal water.
- These conditions are anticipated to last through May. In addition, the actual amount of Section 215 water that is made available will depend on actual hydrologic and operational conditions.
- The federal government continues to engage as a full partner in the collaborative process that Governor Brown's administration is leading to restore the Bay Delta and modernize the state's outdated water infrastructure.
- This is the type of locally driven, solution-oriented collaborative approach that we must all support and to which we must all contribute
- We are working closely with the state, various water interests, and others to identify and implement short-, mid-, and long-term improvements to reliability of water deliveries while also improving environmental conditions in the Bay Delta.
- Toward this end, Reclamation has developed the "Central Valley Project Water Plan 2011" as a snapshot of the various programs and projects being considered and, where necessary, implemented to improve water supply availability and management throughout the Central Valley Project. This plan is available on the Mid-Pacific Region's website.